

Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

October 7, 2014 | Happy Farm to School Month!

In today's Wisconsin Farm to School newsletter, you will find:

- [Farm to School Month](#)
- [Webinars, Conferences and Events](#)
- [Farm to School Media Mentions](#)

Farm to School Month

Join us at noon on Friday, October 24, 2014



If you're not sure what to do for National Farm to School month, participate in the GREAT LAKES GREAT APPLE CRUNCH!

Join Wisconsin students of all ages, from preschool to college, along with individuals across the Great Lakes Region states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio, in celebrating National Farm to School Month and Food Day by crunching into locally and regionally grown apples at NOON on Friday, October 24, 2014 (EST and CST).

This collective crunch encourages healthy eating and supports farm to school and other local food purchasing initiatives throughout the region. It's also a fun way to connect food and nutrition to all kinds of classroom curriculum – from science to art! The Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch provides your school, district, county or region the framework to host a successful local food event this October.

Of course, not everyone can Crunch on Food Day, so we encourage you to Crunch anytime in October to celebrate National Farm to School Month.

To register your school as an apple crunch participant or for more information, including a media kit, email wifarmtoschool@wi.gov.



Spread the word

Let the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection share your Apple Crunch activities.

Share your apple crunchin' photos and stories with us on Facebook or Twitter or email photos to annmarie.ames@wisconsin.gov.

Follow DATCP on Facebook at facebook.com/widatcp or on Twitter at [@widatcp](https://twitter.com/widatcp).

Be sure to use the hashtags **#wiapplecrunch**, **#greatapplecrunch** or **#f2smmonth**.

Apples for everyone

Zoey Brooks, Wisconsin's 67th Alice in Dairyland, has an apple snack during a recent office day. Brooks will be talking to media outlets this month about farm to school and will join the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch on October 24.



Looking for other ways to participate in National Farm to School month?

[Great Lakes Food Day 2014 Clean Label Menu Event](#)

In partnership with the National Farm to School Network and USDA Farm to School program, the seven districts of the School Food FOCUS Upper Midwest Regional Learning Lab will source three items from their own areas, from local farms and regional brands. Districts will highlight the special Food Day menu with photos of their farmers, signs and other promotion in cafeterias. All schools are invited to participate in this fantastic Food Day event.



[Farm to School Month Communications Toolkit](#)

The toolkit contains an explanation of this year's Farm to School Month activities, a sample press release, suggested social media posts, sample text for newsletters and ideas and tips for making media pitches. Use it for any and all of your outreach needs. If you have any questions about this toolkit or Farm to School Month outreach, please contact [Chelsey Simpson](#).

Webinars, Conferences and Events

[WI Farm Bureau Mini-Grant Opportunity!](#)

Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program is offering grants up to \$100 to pre-school through high school teachers, in a public or private school system, to fund projects that promote agricultural literacy in the classroom. Grants can be used for innovative lessons, activities, resources, presentations, school fairs and other creative ideas. Projects should focus on integrating agriculture into a variety of curriculum areas.

[Nominate your Teacher for the WI Farm Bureau Outstanding Teacher Award](#)

The Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Program annually recognizes a Wisconsin teacher or a teaching team for their achievements in teaching students the importance of agriculture while integrating agricultural concepts across the curriculum. The winner receives a \$500 stipend to attend the National Ag in the Classroom Conference.

Wisconsin School Garden Grants – WI Medical Society

Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation is offering grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 each to public elementary or middle level schools in Wisconsin that wish to establish a garden or to expand/enhance an existing garden. Through this program, we hope to encourage and assist schools to incorporate nutrition and healthy lifestyle education in their curriculum through activities related to planning, planting, caring for and harvesting a school garden.



Farm to School Media Mentions

Edible Madison Article on Farm to School Efforts

Learn more about the “Eat Here, Eat Well” project in **Jefferson County**, Wisconsin.

Check out Farm to School partners, the **WI School Garden Initiative** and **Holmen High School**! Their innovative school garden/chicken project is featured in two different pieces - [WPR](#) and [the Washington Times](#). To learn more about the Wisconsin School Garden Initiative, read their [October newsletter](#)!



Making plans to eat apples on Oct. 24 for the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch? Look for orchards in your area at waga.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact DATCP's Sarah Elliott at 608-224-5046 or sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov.